

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VALLET 01410 261725Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 AF-08 /113 W

----- 012630

R 261420Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7106

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USNATO

EC BRUSSELS 299

DIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 1410

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MT

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE
MALTESE PARLIAMENT

REF: VALLETTA 1371 (NOTAL)

1. THE NEW MALTESE PARLIAMENT WAS FORMALLY
OPENED ON NOVEMBER 24. DURING THE CEREMONIAL SESSION,
PRESIDENT SIR ANTHONY MAMO DELIVERED A FORTY-FIVE
MINUTE ADDRESS ON THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES
WHICH THE LABOR GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO FOLLOW DURING
DOM MINTOFF'S SECOND TERM AS PRIME MINISTER. FOLLOWING
THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED UNTIL
NOVEMBER 29 TO ENABLE MINTOFF TO ATTEND THE 13TH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VALLET 01410 261725Z

CONGRESS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN GENEVA (REFTEL).

2. PRESIDENT MAMO'S ADDRESS WAS, IN ESSENCE, A RESUME OF THE LABOR PARTY'S ELECTORAL MANIFESTO ISSUED DURING THE RECENT MALTESE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. IT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY NEW ELEMENTS, OR SURPRISES, AND THEREFORE HAS NOT PRODUCED VERY STRONG REACTIONS (EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH WAS LARGELY WRITTEN BY MINTOFF (WHO SAT BEAMING POLITELY THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY, OBVIOUSLY QUITE PLEASED WITH THE ENTIRE AFFAIR), AND IT CLEARLY REFLECTS THE PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES WHICH ARE UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND AS HE LOOKS TOWARD "THE ATTAINMENT OF MALTESE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE BY THE END OF MARCH 1979."

3. REFERRING TO THE "FORMIDABLE TASK" WHICH MALTA FACES BECAUSE OF THE FORTHCOMING LOSS OF INCOME CURRENTLY DERIVED FROM THE MALTESE/UK MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT, PRESIDENT MAMO SAID THAT BY THE END OF 1979 MALTA MUST CREATE 23,700 NEW JOBS AND DOUBLE THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL MANUFACTURING OUTPUT FROM 100 MILLION TO 203 MILLION MALTESE POUNDS. HE ADDED THAT INVESTMENTS OF 297 MILLION MALTESE POUNDS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THE 23,700 JOBS, ABOUT HALF OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN "MADE OR PLANNED AND AGREED UPON." (COMMENT: ONE MALTESE POUND EQUALS US \$2.30. END COMMENT)

4. THAT PART OF PRESIDENT MAMO'S SPEECH CONCERNING FOREIGN POLICY WAS A TYPICALLY-MINTOFFIAN MIXTURE, OFFERING "FRIENDSHIP" TO MALTA'S NEIGHBORS BUT THREATENING TO TURN TO THE ARABS IF "THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS" DO NOT SUPPORT HIS FOREIGN POLICY AIMS. THE TEXT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: "IN JUST OVER TWO YEARS THE CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF MALTA AS AN ISLAND FORTRESS, SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE STRONGEST FOREIGN POWER WILL BE DEFINITELY CONCLUDED WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST BRITISH SOLDIER FROM THE ISLAND AND A NEW PAGE WILL BE WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE AND OF OUR COUNTRY. IN APRIL 1979 MALTA WILL PROMOTE THE NEW IMAGE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VALLET 01410 261725Z

FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND IN ITS NEW ROLE OF NEUTRALITY IT WILL DIRECT ALL ITS ENERGIES TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF BROTHERLY CO-EXISTENCE IN PEACE AND UNITY AMONGST ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN.

"MALTA IS FULLY DETERMINED TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THESE NATIONS SO THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM BE RESOLVED AND THUS ENABLE THEM TO COME CLOSER

TO ONE ANOTHER. TO DO THIS EFFECTIVELY MALTA CANNOT
TAKE SIDES: IT CAN NEITHER SIDE WITH EUROPE AGAINST
THE AFRICAN NATIONS NOR VICE-VERSA.

"THIS IS VERY CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE
OF MALTA. THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS FULLY CONCUR WITH THIS
BUT IN EUROPE TWO TRENDS OF THOUGHT PREVAIL: SOME
COUNTRIES, LIKE US, SEE A FUTURE BASED ON FRIENDSHIP AND
TIES WITH NORTH AFRICA; OTHERS STILL DREAM OF A FUTURE,
SIMILAR TO THE PAST, RULED BY NATO WITH THE HELP OF THE
CONSERVATIVE CLASS TREADING ON THE SMALLER NATIONS, THE
WORKER AND THE POOR.

"THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF
THEY DO NOT WANT MALTA TO LEAN FURTHER TOWARDS THE ARABS,
THEY SHOULD GLADLY ACCEPT WITH ENTHUSIASM THE HAND OF
FRIENDSHIP WHICH MALTA IS EXTENDING TO THEM." END TEXT

5. THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED
LARGELY TO A LISTING OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
IMPROVEMENTS WHICH THE LABOR GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO
IMPLEMENT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. MOST OF THESE ARE
BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES OF CONSIDERABLE APPEAL TO THE
RANK AND FILE LABOR SUPPORTERS, SUCH AS IMPROVEMENTS IN
THE MINIMUM WAGE, INCREASED RETIREMENT AND OLD-AGE
BENEFITS, AN EXPANDED GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED MEDICAL PROGRAM,
AND EXTENSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED HOUSING PROGRAM.
ALSO MENTIONED WERE PLANS TO "AMALGAMATE" THE GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED "POLYTECHNIC" (VOCATIONAL AND TRADE SCHOOL)
WITH THE GENERALLY INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, AND
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES" WHICH
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH THINGS AS ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEANLINESS, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, THE PROTECTION OF YOUTHS
FROM "DRUGS AND TEMPTATIONS", AND RETAIL PRICE CONTROL
IN THE VARIOUS TOWNS AND VILLAGES.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 VALLET 01410 261725Z

6. IN CLOSING, THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR
"HARD WORK" AND "DISCIPLINE" AMONG ALL CLASSES AND
CATEGORIES OF THE MALTESE PEOPLE SO THAT THE COUNTRY
WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ITS AIMS OF "TRUE POLITICAL
INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECURITY" BY 1979,
AS WELL AS CONTINUE TO "PROGRESS FORWARD IN PEACE"
THEREAFTER.

7. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAS RECEIVED FAIRLY
RESTRAINED REACTIONS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS. THE PRO-
LABOR NEWSPAPERS ARE EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT IT IS
THE "DUTY" OF ALL MALTESE TO FOLLOW THE POLICIES OF THE
NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT, SINCE THAT IS THE "DEMOCRATIC
WILL OF THE MAJORITY", AS EXPRESSED IN THE SEPTEMBER

ELECTION. THE NATIONALIST PAPERS ARE WITHHOLDING THEIR
FIRE UNTIL THE FORMAL REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS
MADE IN PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK BY OPPOSITION LEADER GIORGIO
BORG OLIVIER. ALL IN ALL, THE SPEECH WAS MUCH LESS
CONTROVERSIAL THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, AND IT
GENERALLY SEEMS TO INDICATE "MORE OF THE SAME"
DURING MINTOFF'S SECOND TERM, RATHER THAN RADICAL DEPARTURES
FROM HIS PREVIOUS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. THE
COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SPEECH IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY
AIRGRAM. END COMMENT. WIGGINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VALLET01410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760440-0151
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761110/aaaaaitn.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VALLETTA 1371
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE MALTESE PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MT, (MAMO, ANTHONY), (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006